



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Yates, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Chairman
Greg Adams, L.A. County Sanitation District
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California/All Metals
Daniel Cunningham, Metal Finishing Association
Jacob Haik, Office of School Board Member Richard Vladovic
Art Montez, AMA International

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Loveridge, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Vice Chairman
Felipe Aguirre, Vice Mayor, City of Maywood
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Eric Busch, Representative, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications
James R. Krausz, Esq., ALA Inland Counties
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for EJ
Kelly Moulton, Paralegal
Steve Mugg, South Orange County Representative, City of Mission Viejo
Todd Priest, Representative, Orange County Business Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Earl Elrod, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)
Nicole Nishimura, Board Member Assistant (*Lyou*)

AQMD STAFF:

Alan Caldwell, Community Relations Manager
Philip Crabbe III, Community Relations Manager
Deanna Doerr, Office Assistant
Anupom Ganguli, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
Beth Kaiser, Student Intern
Aaron Katzenstein, Program Supervisor
Lori Langrell, Secretary
Lady Noelle McDesmond, Student Intern
Mohsen Nazemi, Deputy Executive Officer
John Olvera, Principal Deputy District Counsel

Ricardo Rivera, Senior Staff Specialist
Greg Ushijima, AQ Engineer II
Jill Whynot, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Brian Yeh, Sr. Engineering Manager
Yifang Zhu, Air Quality Specialist

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Dennis Yates called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Chair Yates called for approval of the meeting minutes.

The May 8, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

***Action Item:** Notify members regarding the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting.*

LGSBA Members were previously notified of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

***Action Item:** Follow up with Rita Loof, member of the public, regarding her informational inquiries.*

Philip Crabbe followed up with Rita regarding her inquiries.

Agenda Item #3 – Status Update on Implementation of AQMD Governing Board’s “Helping Hand” Initiative A – Assistance to Permit Applicants and Holders

Mr. Brian Yeh gave a presentation with regard to the assistance being provided to permit applicants and permit holders as part of the AQMD Governing Board’s “Helping Hand” initiative during the economic downturn.

Mr. Greg Adams asked if the March 26, 2009 policy memorandum regarding Permit to Construct is public record. Mr. Yeh indicated that it is, and offered to have it distributed to advisory group members.

***Action Item:** Mr. Yeh will make the policy memorandum regarding Permit to Construct available as an attachment to the minutes of this meeting.*

Mr. Art Montez asked if the District provides language assistance for permit applicants. Mr. Yeh indicated that a Spanish speaker was present at the May 30th Saturday permit assistance event. Mr. Montez also asked if there is a diagram or flowchart on how to go through the permit process. Mr. Yeh replied that there is, and that a training video is in the process of being developed. Mr. Montez further asked if there was information regarding education and training of public and private partnerships for new technology installations and maintenance. Mr. Mohsen Nazemi replied that the education and training are handled by the Technology Advancement Office.

Dr. Anupom Ganguli commented that there is a Green Tech Connect Forum being hosted on August 3-4, 2009 at the Pasadena Convention Center. He added that save the date cards were provided at the table for those interested.

Mr. Dan Cunningham asked if the permit application expediting fee can be waived for small businesses. Chair Yates replied that the expediting fee is in place to recover additional staff time costs to review applications from those who want to bypass applicants who were diligent in submitting their applications on time.

Mr. Jacob Haik asked if email lists can be expanded to include more community groups, environmental groups, and grass root organizations to show the efforts of the AQMD. Mr. Philip Crabbe replied that the email blasts also include Clean Air Congress members, many of whom are from community organizations, environmental groups and grass root organizations.

Agenda Item #4 – Status Update on Implementation of AQMD Governing Board’s “Helping Hand” Initiative B – Tree Planting Funding Opportunity

Dr. Aaron Katzenstein provided a presentation on tree planting funding opportunities, which is a part of the AQMD Governing Board’s “Helping Hand” Initiative.

Chair Yates asked if the size of the tree containers was specified in the Request for Proposals (RFP). Dr. Katzenstein replied that trees are to be in 15 gallon containers as it has been shown that trees survive better in smaller containers. He added that one city has requested the size be smaller due to a higher survival rate for a particular tree. Chair Yates then asked if there is a chance of the program being oversubscribed, or if there is a maximum for a city or county. Dr. Katzenstein replied that there are no specific limitations, but that geographic distribution is being encouraged.

Mr. Adams asked whether the program is consistent with the urban tree planting credit generation program to be eligible for GHG credits. Dr. Katzenstein replied that GHG credits cannot be claimed at this time. Mr. Adams then asked if the agency can claim the credits. Ms. Jill Whynot replied that staff may be able to quantify the emission reductions and use those credits for other purposes.

Mr. Montez asked if landscape architects, urban planners and school districts are eligible for this program as well. Ms. Whynot replied that the Chairman specifically wanted cities and counties to be eligible to apply for this program, and hopefully cities will partner with their local school districts. She added that ultimately, the application must come from the city or county. Mr. Montez asked if in the future, school districts can be included in the RFP’s. Ms. Whynot indicated that they can certainly ask that school districts be included in the future, and as a follow up indicated that there have been many tree planting programs in the past, and probably more in the future.

Mr. Haik asked if other costs associated with tree planting are allowable in the proposals, i.e. concrete cutting, transportation, certain digs, etc. Dr. Katzenstein replied they did include site preparation, stakes and other similar items. He added the one thing that funds are not to be used for is to purchase a tractor or heavy equipment.

Agenda Item #5 – Status Update on Dry Cleaning Grant Program

Mr. Philip Crabbe presented an update on the Dry Cleaning Grant Program.

Dr. Ganguli provided a brief explanation of the technology evolution for this industry and highlighted technical information about the different technologies.

Mr. Adams asked what the hydrocarbon solvent is in a hydrocarbon cleaning process. Ms. Whynot replied that she will provide the information as an addendum to the minutes of the meeting.

***Action Item:** Ms. Whynot to provide a description of the hydrocarbon solvent with the Minutes of this meeting.*

Mr. Haik asked what educational and/or outreach component is being used for the various dry cleaning systems. Ms. Whynot replied that there has been substantial outreach and educational efforts by the various Dry Cleaning Associations. She added that there has been a push to change the labeling to reflect both dry cleaning and professional wet cleaning as recommended cleaning processes.

Agenda Item #6 – Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comments.

Agenda Item #7 – Update on Climate Change Activities (Written Report)

Ms. Whynot provided a written report update on climate change activities.

Agenda Item #8 - Other Business

No comments.

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comment

No comments.

Agenda Item #10 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.